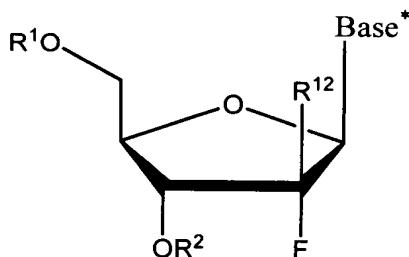


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are or were in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier.

1. - 11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a host infected with a hepatitis C virus, comprising administering to the host infected with a hepatitis C virus an effective amount of a compound having the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R¹ is H; mono-, di- or triphosphate; acyl; an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R¹ is H or phosphate; R² is H; acyl; an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R² is H;

Base* is a purine or pyrimidine base selected from the group consisting of adenine, N⁶-alkylpurine, N⁶-acylpurine, N⁶-benzylpurine, N⁶-halopurine, N⁶-vinylpurine, N⁶-acetylenic purine, N⁶-acyl purine, N⁶-hydroxyalkyl purine, N⁶-alkylaminopurine, N⁶-thioalkyl purine, N²-alkylpurine, N²-alkyl-6-thiopurine, thymine, cytosine, 5-fluorocytosine, 5-methylcytosine, 6-azapyrimidine, 6-azacytosine, 2- and/or 4-mercaptopurine, uracil, 5-halouracil, 5-fluorouracil, C⁵-alkylpyrimidine, C⁵-benzylpyrimidine, C⁵-halopyrimidine, C⁵-vinylpyrimidine, C⁵-acetylenic pyrimidine, C⁵-acyl pyrimidine, C⁵-hydroxyalkyl purine, C⁵-amidopyrimidine, C⁵-cyanopyrimidine, C⁵-iodopyrimidine, C⁶-iodo-pyrimidine, C⁵-Br-vinyl pyrimidine, C⁶-Br-vinyl pyrimidine, C⁵-nitropyrimidine, C⁵-amino-pyrimidine, N²-alkylpurine, N²-alkyl-6-thiopurine, 5-azacytidinyl, 5-azauracilyl, triazolopyridinyl, imidazolopyridinyl,

pyrrolopyrimidinyl, pyrazolopyrimidinyl, guanine, hypoxanthine, 2,6-diaminopurine, and 6-chloropurine;

R^{12} is $C(Y^3)_3$; and

Y^3 is independently H or F.

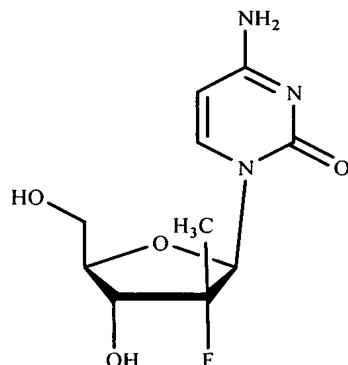
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is H.
14. - 17. (Canceled).
18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is in the form of a dosage unit.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the dosage unit contains 50 to 1000 mg.
20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.
21. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the host is a human.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 85% by weight of the β -D-isomer.
23. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 90% by weight of the β -D-isomer.
24. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 95% by weight of the β -D-isomer.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound is in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt selected from the group consisting of a tosylate, methanesulfonate, acetate, citrate, malonate, tartarate, succinate, benzoate, ascorbate, α -ketoglutarate, α -glycerophosphate, formate, fumarate, propionate, glycolate, lactate,

pyruvate, oxalate, maleate, salicylate, sulfate, nitrate, hydrobromate, hydrochloride, dihydrochloride, and phosphoric acid salt.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a hydrochloride salt.
27. - 43. (Canceled).
44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein Y³ is H.
45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R² is acyl.
46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R² is an amino acid ester.
47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R² is a peptide.
48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R² is a carbohydrate.
49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R¹ is hydrogen.
50. - 51. (Canceled)
52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein Base^{*} ~~the pyrimidine base~~ is cytosine.
53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein Base^{*} ~~the pyrimidine base~~ is thymine.
54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein Base^{*} ~~the pyrimidine base~~ is uracil.
55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, wherein Base^{*} ~~the purine base~~ is adenine.
56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, wherein Base^{*} ~~the purine base~~ is guanine.
57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl.
58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is aryl, alkaryl, aralkyl, alkoxyalkyl or aryloxyalkyl.
59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is aryl.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein R² is acetyl.
61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein R² is propionyl, butyryl, hexanoyl or 2-propenyl.
62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R² is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartate, glutamate, lysine, arginine and histidine.
63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R² is an ester of a naturally occurring or synthetic α , β , γ or δ amino acid.
64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R² is an ester of an amino acid in the L configuration.
65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R² is an ester of valine.
66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the host is human.
67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein:
~~Base^{*} is a pyrimidine base;~~
R¹ is H;
R² is H, acyl or an amino acid ester; and
Y³ is H.
68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 67, wherein ~~Base^{*} the pyrimidine base~~ is cytosine.
69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 67, wherein ~~Base^{*} the pyrimidine base~~ is thymine.
70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 67, wherein ~~Base^{*} the pyrimidine base~~ is uracil.
71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein R² is acyl.
72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein R² is H.
73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein R² is an amino acid ester.
74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl.

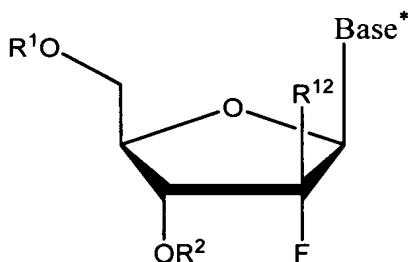
75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is aryl, alkaryl, aralkyl, alkoxyalkyl or aryloxyalkyl.
76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is aryl.
77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein R² is acetyl.
78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein R² is propionyl, butyryl, hexanoyl or 2-propenyl.
79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein R² is an ester of an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartate, glutamate, lysine, arginine and histidine.
80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein R² is an ester of a naturally occurring or synthetic α , β , γ or δ amino acid.
81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein R² is an ester of an amino acid in the L configuration.
82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein R² is an ester of valine.
83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound has the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 or 83 wherein the host is human.

85. (New) A method for the treatment of a host infected with a hepatitis C virus, comprising contacting a hepatitis C virus in the host with a compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R¹ is H; mono-, di- or triphosphate; acyl; an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R¹ is H or phosphate; R² is H; acyl; an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R² is H;

Base* is selected from the group consisting of adenine, N⁶-alkylpurine, N⁶-acylpurine, N⁶-benzylpurine, N⁶-halopurine, N⁶-vinylpurine, N⁶-acetylenic purine, N⁶-acyl purine, N⁶-hydroxyalkyl purine, N⁶-alkylaminopurine, N⁶-thioalkyl purine, N²-alkylpurine, N²-alkyl-6-thiopurine, thymine, cytosine, 5-fluorocytosine, 5-methylcytosine, 6-azapyrimidine, 6-azacytosine, 2- and/or 4-mercaptopurine, uracil, 5-halouracil, 5-fluorouracil, C⁵-alkylpyrimidine, C⁵-benzylpyrimidine, C⁵-halopyrimidine, C⁵-vinylpyrimidine, C⁵-acetylenic pyrimidine, C⁵-acyl pyrimidine, C⁵-hydroxyalkyl purine, C⁵-amidopyrimidine, C⁵-cyanopyrimidine, C⁵-iodopyrimidine, C⁶-ido-purine, C⁵-Br-vinyl pyrimidine, C⁶-Br-vinyl pyrimidine, C⁵-nitropyrimidine, C⁵-amino-purine, N²-alkylpurine, N²-alkyl-6-thiopurine, 5-azacytidinyl, 5-azauracilyl, triazolopyridinyl, imidazolopyridinyl, pyrrolopyrimidinyl, pyrazolopyrimidinyl, guanine, hypoxanthine, 2,6-diaminopurine, and 6-chloropurine;

R¹² is C(Y³)₃; and

Y³ is independently H or F.

86. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein R¹ is H.

87. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein R² is H.

88. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein R² is H.

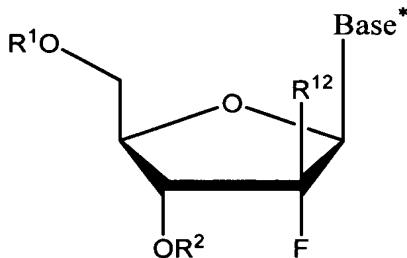
89. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein Y³ is H.

90. (New) The method claim 86, wherein Y³ is H.
91. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein Y³ is H.
92. (New) The method of claim 88, wherein Y³ is H.
93. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein R² is acyl.
94. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein R² is an amino acid ester.
95. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein R² is a peptide.
96. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein R² is a carbohydrate.
97. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein Base* is cytosine.
98. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein Base* is thymine.
99. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein Base* is uracil.
100. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein Base* is adenine.
101. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein Base* is guanine.
102. (New) The method of claim 93, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl.
103. (New) The method of claim 93, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is aryl, alkaryl, aralkyl, alkoxyalkyl or aryloxyalkyl.
104. (New) The method of claim 93, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is aryl.
105. (New) The method of claim 93, wherein R² is acetyl.
106. (New) The method of claim 93, wherein R² is propionyl, butyryl, hexanoyl or 2-propenyl.
107. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein R² is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartate, glutamate, lysine, arginine and histidine.

108. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein R² is an ester of a naturally occurring or synthetic α, β, γ or δ amino acid.
109. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein R² is an ester of an amino acid in the L configuration.
110. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein R² is an ester of valine.
111. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein:
R¹ is H;
R² is H, acyl or an amino acid ester; and
Y³ is H.
112. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is in the form of a dosage unit.
113. (New) The method of claim 112 wherein the dosage unit contains 50 to 1000 mg.
114. (New) The method of claim 112 wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.
115. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein the host is a human.
116. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 85% by weight of the β-D-isomer.
117. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 90% by weight of the β-D-isomer.
118. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 95% by weight of the β-D-isomer.
119. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein the compound is in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt selected from the group consisting of a tosylate, methanesulfonate, acetate, citrate, malonate, tartarate, succinate, benzoate, ascorbate, α-ketoglutarate, α-glycerophosphate, formate, fumarate, propionate, glycolate, lactate,

pyruvate, oxalate, maleate, salicylate, sulfate, nitrate, hydrobromate, hydrochloride, dihydrochloride, and phosphoric acid salt.

120. (New) The method of claim 119, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a hydrochloride salt.
121. (New) A compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is H; mono-, di- or triphosphate; acyl; an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R^1 is H or phosphate;

R^2 is H; acyl; an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R^2 is H;

Base* is selected from the group consisting of adenine, N^6 -alkylpurine, N^6 -acylpurine, N^6 -benzylpurine, N^6 -halopurine, N^6 -vinylpurine, N^6 -acetylenic purine, N^6 -acyl purine, N^6 -hydroxyalkyl purine, N^6 -alkylaminopurine, N^6 -thioalkyl purine, N^2 -alkylpurine, N^2 -alkyl-6-thiopurine, thymine, cytosine, 5-fluorocytosine, 5-methylcytosine, 6-azapyrimidine, 6-azacytosine, 2- and/or 4-mercaptopurine, uracil, 5-halouracil, 5-fluorouracil, C^5 -alkylpyrimidine, C^5 -benzylpyrimidine, C^5 -halopyrimidine, C^5 -vinylpyrimidine, C^5 -acetylenic pyrimidine, C^5 -acyl pyrimidine, C^5 -hydroxyalkyl purine, C^5 -amidopyrimidine, C^5 -cyanopyrimidine, C^5 -iodopyrimidine, C^6 -ido-purine, C^5 -Br-vinyl pyrimidine, C^6 -Br-vinyl pyrimidine, C^5 -nitropyrimidine, C^5 -amino-purine, N^2 -alkylpurine, N^2 -alkyl-6-thiopurine, 5-azacytidinyl, 5-azauracilyl, triazolopyridinyl, imidazolopyridinyl, pyrrolopyrimidinyl, pyrazolopyrimidinyl, guanine, hypoxanthine, 2,6-diaminopurine, and 6-chloropurine;

R^{12} is $C(Y^3)_3$; and

Y^3 is independently H, F, Cl, Br or I.

122. (New) The compound of claim 121, wherein R¹ and R² are H.